

Grades 4 & 11 CA History Social Science Framework Draft Recommendations

To: California History Social Science Framework Revision Committee

From: M. Guadalupe Espinoza, Full Time Lecturer American Language Program at
CSU Fullerton

Ramona G. Espinoza, Unconstitutionally Deported in 1932

Re: **Grade 4, Chapter 7, Lines 529 & 521-529 and Grade 11, Chapter 16, Line 583
& Lines 583-595**

Date: February 29, 2016

Grade 4, Chapter 7, Line 529 and Grade 11, Line 595

The inclusion of “repatriation” of Mexican and Mexican Americans during the 1930s is a significant recognition of a key event of California History. Nevertheless, the present draft needs to fulfill specifications of AB 146 signed into law by Governor Brown in 2015. AB 146 specifies:

This bill would, for purposes of encouraging the incorporation of survivor and witness testimony into the

teaching of human rights, include the unconstitutional deportation to Mexico during the Great Depression of

citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States within the definition of human rights. The bill would encourage professional development activities to provide teachers with content background and

resources to assist in teaching about that deportation. The bill would require the State Board of Education to

consider providing for the inclusion of the study of that deportation when the curriculum frameworks for

history-social science are revised on or after January 1, 2016” (California Education Code, Section 51226.3).

In accordance with AB 146, teachers therefore must be provided with background information as well as resources for **Grade 4, Chapter 7 Lines 521-529** and for **Grade 11, Chapter 16, lines 583-595** also should state:

“Teachers can use the award winning scholarly publication, Balderrama, F. & Rodriguez, R. (2006). Decade of Betrayal: Mexican repatriation in the 1930s for teacher background knowledge/instructional resources. Students may use this source for investigation/reading of primary source documents/photos and oral history testimony about the ‘unconstitutional deportation’ of the 1930s. Also students may listen to oral history testimonies in the Mexican American Collection, CSU Fullerton, Center for Oral and Public History. Furthermore, students may listen to the voices of survivors available on the documentary, Expulsion of U.S. Citizens (Boucher, Kissell & Larson, LLP. (Producer), 2004). <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZ5pvg5-4Nk>.

Grade 4, Chapter 7, Lines 521-529 and Grade 11, Chapter 16, Lines 583-595

Furthermore, there is the issue of proper terminology in discussing the expulsion of Mexicans and Mexican Americans. Drawing from current scholarship, **Grade 4, Chapter 7 Lines 521-529** and in **Grade 11, Chapter 16, lines 583-595** should also state:

“Repatriation” was a cruel euphemism and cover up word for the unconstitutional deportation of Mexican and Mexican Americans, 60% who were American born children (Balderrama & Rodriguez, 2006).”

The State of California has recognized and apologized for the removal of some 400,000 Mexicans and Mexican Americans during the Great Depression, SB 670 (2005), the Apology Act and now it is time to teach the children of California this tragic and important history of California and the United States as the 5th grade students of Bell Gardens so eloquently requested at the California State Assembly in March 2015!